

**Vision 21 Implementation Committee**  
**Meeting Notes, May 4, 2006**  
**(Accepted as submitted, May 18, 2006)**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

**Members Present:** Donna Brescia, Vinnie DeNovellis, Victoria Hasse, Jennifer Page, Paul Santos

**Members absent:** Austin Bliss, Ann Rittenburg, Meg O'Brien, Sara Oaklander, Paul Solomon, Jay Szklut

## **1. Administrivia**

Paul Santos served as recorder. There was no quorum, so the minutes of the April 6, 2006 meeting were not reviewed.

## **2. Reports and Announcements**

### **2.1 Sustainable Belmont**

2.1.1 Co-sponsoring: We have been asked for our endorsement of the June 14 SB meeting. We agreed by consensus that SB does not need to ask VIC for endorsement of all their public activities, since they are an official subgroup of VIC. Jennifer will communicate the substance of this intent to Jan and Heather.

It was proposed that at our next meeting, we might consider giving the chair automatic authority to have VIC co-sponsor or endorse any program organized by one of the VIC task forces.

2.1.2 Programs on Channel 8: The Moomaw lecture on Climate Change was re-taped and will be aired on Channel 8. The CAP (Climate Action Plan) first phase report was given by the Tufts students in the Selectmen's room on 5/2; this program, too, will be aired on Channel 8.

2.1.3 Anti-Idling campaign: SB has received a small DEP grant (so far, for signage and pamphlets) as part of the statewide anti-idling campaign. We discussed the issues about walking to school, and whether this was an opportunity for VIC to become more directly involved.

### **2.2 Harvard Lawn Fire Station Committee**

Jennifer reported that she has appointed Meg to be the VIC representative, with Donna as alternate. Donna reported the committee met at 7:30 Wednesday (5/3) morning. The mandate is to develop an RFP for developers, although there are some other ideas such as

town own and rehab vs. sell the property. The zoning is R2. Neighbors and the Handicapped Commission are involved. There is some desire by the Historic District Commission to save the exterior/visual character of the building.

## **2.3 Neighbors Network**

2.3.1 Adine Storer is stepping down as co-chair, but Katherine Bonfiglio is hanging on. Recruiting more members is a priority. The possibility was mentioned of using Farmer's Market to help recruit. T

2.3.2 Block parties: The town list of folks who requested street closings was used as a base for soliciting information about having block parties. This paid off in some stories that were printed in the paper.

2.3.3 Vinnie said Community Ed would like a place at Meet Belmont. They will work with the School Department to get space at their table(s).

2.3.4 The next Meet Belmont will be Tuesday evening, August 29, at the HS cafeteria from 6 PM to about 8 or 8:30 PM. There will be no conflict with the Payson Park Concert Series. There is a planning meeting for the Meet Belmont event on Thursday, May 25 at 7:30 PM in the Library Staff Room.

## **2.4 Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (MAPC)**

Vinnie distributed a report on the latest (3/21) meeting of the three-town (Belmont, Waltham, and Lexington) sub area/Trapelo corridor study group of the MAPC, which was also attended by Donna. Vinnie and Donna expressed the concern that these meetings were only designed to present status, but no input was solicited from the town. How can the VIC help the towns concerned to more collectively deal with planning?

## **2.5 Farmer's Market**

Paul reported that there will be a Belmont Farmer's Market on Thursday afternoons 2:00 -6:30 PM, starting June 15 and running through October 26. It will be in the Municipal Parking Lot off Cross Street in Belmont Center. There are 16 vendors signed up, and a website: [www.belmontfarmersmarket.org](http://www.belmontfarmersmarket.org).

## **2.6 Cushing Square Revitalization Plan**

Paul attended the meeting for businesses and abutters on April 26 and reported on it. The meeting was organized by Jay 's office (but he was unable to be there) to gather input for revitalization planning of Cushing Square. There was an extensive report in the Citizen-Herald about the meeting. At the meeting, there seemed to be almost universal consensus that the square needed an "anchor store"; the discussion favored a Trader Joe's; however, the company, when approached, indicated there are already sufficient branches in our area. The landlord of the Brigham's block is planning on a major renovation of that

block, probably sooner than the Trapelo corridor work. There was a lot of discussion about parking, with a significant consensus that the Planning Board should decouple the height and parking regulations. The merchants also felt the emphasis should be a finding the right store/tenant(s) first, and then dealing with the parking as needed. A structured parking garage in the existing public lot was also mentioned. Licensing and other regulations came up, with a reference to the BPDG work and the need for more of the same (hint: VIC, there may be an opportunity to get involved here).

## **2.7 Town Day**

Jennifer asked for volunteers to help with the joint VIC/Sustainable Belmont/Neighbor's Network table at Town Day from 9-4 on Saturday, May 20. None of the members present were available to help, but she will ask the other members.

## **3. Touching Base with the Town Regarding the Vision**

Jennifer summarized for members the discussion that had taken place at the last meeting regarding the committee's interest in helping town residents and others to revisit the Vision and to examine the ways that the Town and individuals are implementing the Vision. A general discussion followed, but no decisions were reached as we lacked a quorum.

## **4. Next Meeting**

Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006 from 7-9 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Santos  
Secretary Pro Tempore